Archives d'electricité médicale Expérimentales et Cliniques.

(1902. No. 109, January.)

1. The Electrical Reactions in family Periodic Paralysis. ODDO and DARCOURT.
2. On the Law of Stimulation of Nerves and Muscles. J. CLUZET.
3. The Electric Valve of Villard with Maximum and Minimum Spark Gaps. A. BÉCLÈRE.
4. The Employment of the Geissler Vacuum for the Production of Chemical Rays. Dr. STÉPHAN LEDUC.
5. A Comparative Study of the Foucault and of the Wehnelt Types of Interrupters. ALBERT TURPAIN.
6. A Note upon an Apparatus that Conveniently Permits a Preliminary Fluoroscopic Examination as well as a Radiograph to be Made of a Prone Individual with the Tube placed above the Subject. Dr. H. GUILLEMINOT.
6. A New Electrostatic Electrode of great Sensitiveness. DIAZ DELGADO.
7. A New Arrangement of the Static Machine and its Accessory Appurtenances. J. B. (Edit. note.)

1. *Electrical Reactions in Family Periodic Paralysis.*— In this paper the authors give a minute report of the electrical reactions observed in a patient with family periodic paralysis in whom all the muscles of the extremities and some of those of the trunk were totally paralyzed during one of the periodical attacks. From their observations of this case and from the description of the reactions occurring in cases of this disease previously investigated by Westphal, Oppenheim, Goldflam, and others, the authors conclude as follows: (1) During every attack the electrical irritability is altered, whether the stimulus is a direct or an indirect one; (2) no R. D. occurs; (3) the diminution of the irritability is in relation to the degree of the paralysis, and accompanies the latter in its distribution; (4) between the attacks the reactions become normal, at most a slight diminution in the irritability may still persist; since the topographical distribution of the paralysis appears to be irregular and not confined to regions supplied by particular, or spinal segments, and as the muscles respond more readily with indirect stimulation, the authors consider the seat of the affection to be in the muscles, and regard the disease as a variety of myopathy essentially functional in character.

2. *Law of Stimulation of Nerves and Muscles.*—As the result of investigation upon nerve muscle perforations from frogs and upon men, the author concludes that the law discovered by Weiss prevails approximately when nerves and muscles are stimulated through the skin by the unipolar method with ordinary electrodes. According to the author, Weiss' law, Q equals A plus BT, means in plain language, that, if an electric stimulus is applied to a nerve or muscle to produce a minimum response, the stimulus must put in motion a constant quantity of electricity plus a quantity proportional to the time of the discharge.

3. *Electric Valve of Villard.*—The author describes an auxillary apparatus for X-ray work composed of a Villard electrostatic valve shunted by a wide and a narrow spark gap, which arrangement is claimed to be very efficacious for rendering the induced current from induction coils more uni-directional, and for controlling with greater nicety the voltage applied to the X-ray tube.

4. *Geissler Vacuum Tubes.*—For obtaining intense violet and ultra-violet rays, the author recommends special tubes exhausted only to the usual Geissler vacuum in preference to the more costly and complicated arc light installations of the Finsue type. The intensity of action of such tubes is 60 times that of the arc light.

5. *Types of Interruptors.*—In this paper the author fully describes and contrasts the merits and the faults of Foncault's mechanical interrupter, and of various varieties of the Wehnelt and the Caedwell electrolytic interrupters.

6. *Fluoroscopic Examinations.*—A description extolling the merits of a rather complicated arrangement containing a horizontally-placed plate-holder, fluorescent screen, and a mirror on pinions, all of which are borne by a vertically-adjusted framework that can be placed beneath the X-ray examination table.

7. *Electrostatic Electrode.*—A description of a static electrode bearing an adjustable spark-gap attachment upon its long, hard-rubber handle.

8. *New Arrangement for Static Machine.*—A description of a Wimshurst machine with the rotors located in the lower part of the case, while the various dischargers, jars, etc., are arranged upon the low, flat top. R. H. CUNNINGHAM (New York).

MISCELLANY.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE TREATMENT OF SYDENHAM'S CHOREA (Gazz. degli Osped., 1901, No. 144).

Jemma reports excellent results from lumbar puncture in two severe cases of chorea minor, 25 cc. of fluid being withdrawn; the effect was instantaneous. Choreic symptoms reappeared after a time though not in the original severity, and subsided entirely after repeated puncture, a cure being effected within four weeks. The favorable influence of this measure is believed to be due to decrease in endocranial pressure. FIELDING (New York).

TREATMENT OF HYDROCEPHALUS (Archiv. f. Kinderheilkunde, Bd. xxxii, p. 329).

Immerwol reports treatment of 10 cases of hydrocephalus in children from 3 months to 2 years. (Nine congenital hydrocephalus and 1 acquired.) Therapeutic measures used were: antisyphilitic treatment; lateral puncture of the cerebral ventricles; puncture followed by injection of tr. iodine; and lumbar puncture. The author believes repeated lumbar puncture to be indicated in all cases of acquired hydrocephalus, and advises its trial in the congenital form; never omitting, however, antiluetic treatment.

FIELDING (New York).

TREATMENT OF NERVOUS DISEASES WITH BROMALBUMINOUS PREPARATIONS (Therapeutische Monatshefte, No. 1, 1902).

Of all the bromide preparations, bromeigon and brompepton contain the smallest amount of bromide, yet their influence is not less for this. Through bromalkalies the organism is more rapidly saturated with the drug; yet, on the other hand, the effect of bromalbumen is more protracted, and after the use of brompepton even in relatively large amounts, bromism is not observed. This may be due to the fact that bromide does not readily break up from the albumen molecule. Silberstein has used brompepton most frequently in epileptic convulsions. In his hands it has also proved serviceable in irritation of the cerebral cortex after acute alcohol-intoxication,